



## **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

### **WHAT IS: THE NICKELODEON ANIMATION FESTIVAL?**

The Nickelodeon Animation Festival, formerly the Nicktoons Network Animation Festival, is the first and only multi-platform animation festival in North America. The festival, the largest of its kind, showcases animators from around the world who submit their original animation, ideas and characters for a chance to win great prizes. The festival also offers animators the unique opportunity of having their work broadcast on-air, online, and shown at a live event at the Nickelodeon Studios in Burbank, California.

### **WHAT ARE THE CATEGORIES FOR 2009?**

There are two ways to enter into this year's festival.

Submit your short, ten minutes and under into the general submissions category to be eligible to win the Grand Jury, Producers' Choice, Student and Viewers' Choice awards.

Or you can enter your 15 seconds of a breakout funny character animation to be considered for the Grand Prize, "15 Seconds To Fame" contest.

You can enter into both categories as often as you like!

Click on the following link for this year's categories and descriptions: [2009 Entry Categories](#). Don't forget to check back regularly since more categories and contest will get added.

### **CAN I SUBMIT A SHORT TO MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY?**

Yes! Shorts can only be entered into multiple categories as long as they adhere the specific requirements and Rules & Regulations for that particular category. Remember you must fill out a separate entry form for each entry.

### **WHAT IS THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES TO THE 2009 FESTIVAL?**

The deadline for both NAF General submissions and the Grand Prize "15 Seconds to Fame" Contest is September 8, 2009.

### **IS THERE AN ENTRY FEE?**

No, as always, entry to the Festival is free. Tell your friends!

## **IF I ENTER, WHAT COSTS AM I RESPONSIBLE FOR?**

Online submission during the Pre-Selection period of the festival is free. If your short is chosen as a Nominee, then animators are responsible for all cost related to shipping the broadcast quality short. The Festival will not cover customs fees.

## **IF MY SHORT IS CHOSEN AS A NOMINEE WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO?**

If your short is chosen as a nominee you will be required to send us a broadcast quality version of your short by mail as well as your bio and headshot and three high res screen shots of your short by October 9, 2009. You will be notified if you have been chosen as a nominee on or around September 25<sup>th</sup> and will be given further information at that time. If your short is chosen as a winner you will be required to sign a W4 and Tax Qualification Form as well. All taxes are your responsibility.

## **WHAT ARE THE ENTRY RULES?**

The Rules & Regulations may differ depending on which contest you are submitting to. Please read all rules & regulations carefully before entering.

Grand Prize "15 Seconds to Fame" Contest [Rules & Regulations](#)  
NAF General Submissions [Rules & Regulations](#)

## **HOW DO I ENTER?**

Entering this year's festival is easier than ever! You can submit your entry form and "screener" short online. However, you must print, sign and send the [Festival Agreement](#) via mail or fax to:

Nickelodeon Animation Festival 2009  
1515 Broadway 38<sup>th</sup> floor  
New York, NY 10036  
(212) 846-1988

We will also accept mail-in submissions. Download and complete the [entry form](#) and follow all the instructions carefully.

## **WHAT IS A "SCREENER"?**

A screener is a low-res version of your short. To make the online upload easier and faster we will use the screeners for the pre-selection period of the festival in which we decide the official nominees. Nominees will be contacted to later provide a high resolution, broadcast quality version of their short.

What are the technical requirements for uploading screeners?

If you are entering your short online, please upload your short as a "screener" following specs below:

File Container Format:

.mov, .wmv, .avi, .mp4, .mpeg, .mpg, .flv, mkv

File Codecs:

H.264, VC-1, WMV9, VP6, DivX, Sorenson 3, Xvid (Recommended)

Video Size:

480x360

Video Aspect Ratio:  
4x3, 16x9 (Letterboxed)

Bit Rate:  
800 Kbps

### **DO YOU ONLY ACCEPT SCREENER DURING THE PRE-SELECTION PROCESS?**

We only accept screeners online due to size restrictions but if you would like to send us your broadcast quality short for judging, please follow the [mail-in instructions](#).

All nominees in the festival will be required to send us their broadcast quality shorts by October 9<sup>th</sup>, if you want to get a leg up on sending us yours, feel free.

### **WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY SHORT WAS SELECTED TO BE PART OF THE FESTIVAL?**

All Nominees will be contacted on or around September 25, 2009 to mail in broadcast quality versions of their short on DVD, Digibeta, or DV tape.

Only nominees who are selected into the festival will be required to send a broadcast quality version of their short.

### **HOW MUCH TIME WILL NOMINEES HAVE TO MAIL IN THEIR BROADCAST QUALITY SHORT?**

We must receive all broadcast quality shorts and signed forms by October 9, 2009.

What are the technical requirements for broadcast quality shorts?

Video: DigiBeta or DV tape is required. NTSC format is also required.

OR

Digital: Quicktime, uncompressed, with a video size of 720x486 pixels, Mac formatted, is preferred. Playable DVDs must be Region 1, Region 0, or All Region.

Include separate sound tracks (if available) and full credits

Note: Do not send masters. They will not be returned.

### **ARE THERE ANY OTHER MATERIALS THAT NOMINEES WILL BE REQUIRED TO MAIL IN?**

Yes, in order to be part of the Festival, you will need to mail in or fax a signed Festival Agreement form.

Also, to better promote Nominees we will need you to mail the following items on a CD-ROM or DVD:

- Photo of director, 300 DPI
- Bio of director (max 300 words)
- 3 Stills of the short (hi-res 300 DPI)

### **WHAT IF I CHOOSE TO MAIL IN MY ENTRY, WHAT ARE THE TECHNICAL REQUIREMENTS?**

To save time and mailing costs, if you plan to submit your entry by mail, please send us a broadcast quality short from the beginning:

Video: DigiBeta or DV tape is required. NTSC format is also required.

OR

Digital: Quicktime, uncompressed, with a video size of 720x486 pixels, Mac formatted, is preferred. Playable DVDs must be Region 1, Region 0, or All Region.

Include separate sound tracks (if available) and full credits

Note: Do not send masters. They will not be returned.

If I enter, does my submission automatically become property of Nickelodeon  
Nickelodeon does not own your short. You own it, it's yours! We just ask for the opportunity to show it to the world.

## **CAN I ENTER MY SHORT INTO OTHER FESTIVALS AS WELL?**

You can do anything you like with your short. We don't own it. It's yours to enter in as many festivals as you like, or none at all. It's your baby. We just show it off.

## **WHAT ARE THE JUDGES LOOKING FOR?**

It's pretty simple: For General Submissions the Nickelodeon Animation Festival 2009 Pre-selection Jury is looking for great animated shorts. They can be funny or smart, a great story, or just push the boundaries of animation in some new and innovative way.

For the Grand Prize "15 Seconds To Fame" contest the Nickelodeon Animation Festival 2009 is looking specifically for a breakout FUNNY character that you think could possibly become a Nickelodeon show. Make us laugh!

Remember, we are a kids' network and all content must pass our kid standards so keep it clean!

## **WHO ARE THE JUDGES?**

The Preselection Jury—the folks who decide whether your animated short makes it into The Nickelodeon Animation Festival 2009—consists of employees of Nickelodeon.

The Grand Prize "15 Seconds to Fame" Contest is chosen by the Nickelodeon Development team, the folks who brought you mega hits such as Spongebob Squarpants, The Fairly Oddparents, Mighty B and the new Penguins.

The Grand Jury prize will be chosen by the Grand Jury judges. Some past years judges have included Shawn and Marlon Wayans, Seth MacFarlane, Steve Oedekerk, Patrick Warburton and Genndy Tartakovsky, just to name a few. The Judges for this year's Grand Jury prize will be announced on this site at a later date.

## **WHAT CAN I WIN?**

By entering into the General Submissions category your short is eligible for any and all of these various awards and prizes:

- The Grand Jury Award - \$10,000
- The Producer's Choice Award - \$5,000
- The Student Award - \$2,000
- The Viewer's Choice Award - \$5,000

By entering into the The Grand Prize "15 Seconds to Fame" Award you are eligible to win \$5,000 to create a new 2 minute short with the Nickelodeon Animation Development team. The Nickelodeon Development team will provide the additional budget and production support to complete the full 2 minute short.

## **WHAT IF THE DIALOGUE IN MY ANIMATED SHORT IS NOT IN ENGLISH?**

Use your judgment: if the short makes sense without dialogue, for instance your short is animated to a song, (that you have the rights to of course) then we don't care about the language (but we may ask for a copy of the lyrics for standards purposes.) If, however, the short only makes sense with dialogue, then you need to send us an English language version. Subtitles are accepted as well.

## **IF I'VE ALREADY SOLD MY ANIMATED SHORT TO A DISTRIBUTOR OR ANOTHER NETWORK, MAY I STILL ENTER?**

Check with your agreement as to what you can do with your short. Clearing all rights is your responsibility. Please include a copy of this contract with your entry form.

## **CAN I ENTER IF MY SHORT WON AN AWARD IN ANOTHER FESTIVAL?**

Absolutely, but remember to send us a list of your awards.

## **DO I NEED TO BE THE CREATOR OF THE ANIMATED SHORT I'M SUBMITTING OR CAN I SUBMIT AS A MEMBER OF THE PRODUCTION CREW?**

You don't need to be the creator of the short to submit, but you must have the authorization to do so. You also don't need to have created the music used in your short, but again, you must have obtained the rights to use that music.

## **IS THERE AN AGE LIMIT FOR ENTRY?**

Yes. You must be at least 18 years of age to enter. If you are under 18, check out our website regularly for more information on our "Greater Creator" Contest coming soon!

## **HOW MANY ANIMATED SHORTS CAN I ENTER?**

As many as you like! However you need to submit each original short separately. If your short is, for example, one in a six-short webisode, you may submit all six shorts but you will need to fill out a separate entry form for each short. Each short will be considered on its own merit.

## **CAN I ENTER MY 15 SECOND SHORT INTO THE GENERAL SUBMISSIONS CATEGORY?**

Yes! If you want to be considered for any of the other awards, such as Grand Jury Award, Student Award, Producers' Choice Award, and/or Viewers' Choice Award you can enter your short to both categories but you must fill out a new entry form.

## **WHEN WILL I FIND OUT IF MY SHORT WAS SELECTED?**

The Nickelodeon Animation Festival will contact you between September 8<sup>th</sup> and September 25<sup>th</sup> if your short has been selected for this year's festival. We will contact you via email or phone, so please check your emails in case we need to ask you questions, get more information and/or give you the good news that your short was selected!

Once selected the Nickelodeon Animation Festival is scheduled to debut at a live event in Los Angeles in October, and on-air and online in November 2009. We will announce the winners during that time so keep checking back!

**WHEN DO I FIND OUT IF I WON?**

All the winners (except the online Viewers' Choice Award) will be announced during the festival event in Los Angeles as well as on-air in November 2009. All prize winners will be contacted via e-mail as well.

**IF I WIN, WILL MY ANIMATED SHORT BE PART OF A DVD THAT'S SOLD IN STORES OR ON ITUNES?**

No. If a DVD or other materials are created it will be for promotional purposes only and will not be for sale.

**DOES MY SHORT HAVE TO BE FROM 2008-2009?**

No, for the General Submission category your short must be from 2003-2009. For the "15 Second to Fame" category your short can be from any year as long as it meets all other requirements.

**MAY I SUBMIT THE SAME SHORT I ENTERED LAST YEAR?**

Yes, provided it was not selected for the Festival last year and it meets the criteria listed in the Rules and Regulations section.

**WILL I GET MY SUBMISSION MATERIALS BACK?**

No. Submission materials will not be returned. Nor are we liable if the submission gets lost in the mail.

**YOUR WEBSITE ISN'T WORKING!**

Try a different web browser (Firefox, Safari, Internet Explorer) and make sure you upgrade to the newest version. If you're still having problems, please email us at [naf@nick.com](mailto:naf@nick.com).

**WHenever I try to upload my files and click "SUBMIT", the webpage just sits there. Did you get them?**

Depending on your connection speed, the size of the files, and the time of day, it may take awhile for your short to upload properly and you may have to wait a number of minutes. If you continue to have problems, feel free email [naf@nick.com](mailto:naf@nick.com).

**THANKS FOR ENTERING AND GOOD LUCK!**